# CERTAINE EASIE AND PROFITABLE POINTS

in *Husbandrie*, for the Improving and making of Ground Fertile.

*For the Increasing and Preserving of* TYMBER.

AND

For the gathering in of *Corne*, in Late and Wet Harvests.

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LONDON,

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# AN EASIE AND PROFITABLE ORDER IN TILling of Ground to improve it, and make it Fertile.

BEcauſe all things in this World are ſubject to caſualtie, and *Husbandry* and *Tillage* although it be a principall ſtay, and ſupporter both in the Church and Common-wealth, yet doth it not alwayes hit according to the *Husbandmans* expectation, but oftentimes doth faile, unto his great loſſe, and the miſeries of others: I ſhall here diſcover ſome certaine points in *Husbandrie*, whereby the *Husbandman* may eaſily ſuccour his *Corn* after it is ſown, and uſe ſuch meanes and wayes that he may preſerve and foſter it, if need ſo require.

Now the moſt certaine way in *Tillage*, not to looſe both your ſeed and labor (as many often have done in dry ſeaſons, and are ſtill like to doe, if they hold on in their accuſtomed *Tillage*) whē the ſeaſon is like to be dry, is to *Till* your *Ground* by *Lands*, leaving alwayes a ſpace untilled betweene every *Land*, that ſo you may have places whereby you may come to moyſten, and ſuccour your *Seed* untill it be well come forth and growne, if the ſeaſon be dry, and you perceive it doth not come forth

kindely as you would have it, this is a point of *Husbandrie*, that will be extraordinarie uſefull where any *Barraine ground* lyeth neare unto any Rivers, where water may plentifully be had, and it will not be unuſefull where good ground is, although there be not ſuch plentie of water: but ſome *Husbandmen* it may be will be apt to thinke, that ſo much ground that yeare is loſt that is left untill'd in a Field that is tilled; but it is eaſily anſwered, that better a little ground be loſt, then a greater quantitie of ground, and your coſt and *Seed* alſo be loſt, as it may be ſayd well to be, if it doth not bring forth a crop proportionable unto the place and charge beſtowed thereon, but to ſpeake the truth, the ground is not loſt that is left untilled, becauſe of it ſelfe it will bring forth ſome benefit: although it be not ſowne, and that, that is not ſowne the one yeare doth gather heart, and will be improved againſt the next yeare, for if you diligently ſuccour your ſeed-plots with water, and ſome ſuch other means as you ſhall ſee needfull, the *Invention* that you may water your tilled ground with, will alſo at the ſame time water your untilled ſpaces, ſo as that, what with the watering, and with the trampling, your untilled ſpaces will be well improved thereby. For watering, and trampling of ground when it is moiſt, will improve any ground, without any other meanes, neyther may any *Husbandman* ſow one jot the leſſe, for what quantitie of ground he leaveth unſowne in one Field, he may ſow for it the ſame quantity in another place, and in the ſame manner, if he thinke well, and in thus ordering, and ſowing of his ground he ſhall finde more certaine profit then any other way.

The breadth of the *Lands* that in this manner are to be tilled, may be 6, 7, or 8 foot in breadth, and the ſpace betweene each land that you are to leave untilled, may be a foot and a halfe, or more in breadth if you ſee cauſe: thus may you without doing harme to your Corne at any time as you ſee cauſe, both nouriſh and cheriſh it up, from the firſt ſowing thereof untill it be

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past all danger that may befall it through drought, for when it is sprung up to some prettie growth, the blades will defend the roots thereof so from the heat of the Sunne in dry seasons, that it will not take any extraordinari harme thereby:

Also this is to be noted, that those spaces that you leave unplowed one yeare, if you sow the same *Field* the next yeare, you are to plow up, & leave now some part of the lands (that the last yere were tilled and sown) for to be the spaces between the Lands that you mean now to till & sow: and so every yeare you may rest some part of your *Field*, although every yeare you sow the greater part, and reape good crops of Corne from the same.

Now to give you some taste whether this point of *Husbandrie* will be advantagious or no, let every *Husbandman* first cast what an Acre of *Corne* is worth standing upon the Ground, and then how many Acres thereof may be watered in a day; unto the first question I can answere, I have knowne an Acre of Wheat to have been worth ten pounds upon the ground, when Corne hath been at an high price, but I will suppose it to bee worth now but 40 shillings, or 3 poũd the Acre: Vnto the second I will answere, where water may easily be had, a couple of men may well and easily water about some 30 Acres a day, when the dayes be long, and if it be watered well but every other day, and the ground be any thing good, or well manured, it will come forward; and by this account, two men may cherish 60 Acres and bring it forward, watering the one halfe well one day, and the other halfe another day; and 60 Acres according unto the lowest rate amounteth unto 120 pound, & at 3 pound the Acre, it will amount unto 180 pound: and how much soever an Acre of any Corne can be worth, an Acre of Corne well tilled and thus cherished, will come to be worth much more then that which is but slightly tilled, and that never after is helped or cherished any wayes. Now if a Couple with two or three Monthes labor (for I suppose in two or three Monthes

the *Corne* will be indifferently able to defend it ſelfe againſt the heat of the *Sunne*, and will be come ſo forward that it will not need any further watering) can thus bring ſuch profit out from the earth, I ſuppoſe it will recompence their labour, and be an incouragement unto any to proceed with pleaſure and delight in a labour ſo advantagious for themſelves, and ſo much concerning the publike good, neither will this labour fall upon the *Husbandman* at an unſeaſonable time. For alwayes after *Seed-time* hath the *Husbandman* moſt leiſure, & after *Seed-time* then is the moſt ſeaſonable time thus to cheriſh your *Corn*, & it is not to be doubted, but that oftentimes there will fall ſome ſhowers alſo, that will both helpe and eaſe the labor of the Waterers, in the drieſt time and ſeaſon of the yeare: For I for my part am perſwaded that in mens honeſt and good endeavours there is a ſilent Rethorick to perſwade with God, and yet I would not have any man to be ſilent in a time of neceſſitie; but I leave that for Divines to teach and perſwade, and ſtirre up men unto.

Now ſuch *Husbandmen* that have not a manuring *Plow* or *Seed-barrow* ready, may till their Land in this order after the old accuſtomed manner, if the *Land* be not extraordinarie barren. For if it be extraordinarie barren, then they muſt uſe the *Manuring-Plow*, or *Manuring-Wagen* in *Tilling* and *Sowing* the ſame, or elſe perhaps they may looſe much of their Crop, or at leaſt never improove it ſo orderly by ſowing the ſame: Neither is there a better, nor more eaſie and ſpeedy way to improve any arable ground, or to make any *barren Land* to become good arable Land then by thus ordering, and ſowing of the ſame, as any one may quickly finde that ſhall but once make tryall of ſome little parcell of *barren ground* in any place.

Now if there be any that can helpe the Author unto any reaſonable quantitie of *barren ground*, he will further diſcover unto them how they ſhall improve both eaſily and ſpeedily any *barren ground*, and make it to become good *Medow ground*, and

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to be worth ſo much yearly, as any *Medow ground* is, or can be in any place neare adjacent thereunto.

*How to ſhrowd your Graſſe.*

IT were one excellent point in *Husbandrie* to ſet and plant, both Oakes and Elmes, all along in a row by the hedges on your Field ſides, excepting thoſe ſides that joyne upon ſome common Roads and Highwayes, that require the Winde and Sunne to drie them, and make them paſſable, for hereby might you ſhelter the graſſe a great part of the long Summer dayes, from the ſcortching heat of the Sunne, and in the Winter from the nipping blaſts of the cold freezing Winde, and alſo provide fuell for your fire and other uſes, and food for your Swine, beſides many other commodities that would ariſe from the ſame, for every *Spring* your graſſe would be much more forwarder than it is, and the leaves of the Trees would alſo help to fatten your ground; and it were to be wiſhed that there were ſome *Act* or *Statute* to force this point of *Husbandrie*, that ſo the Walles of the Kingdome, and the Bridges whereby ſuch troopes of our Fore-fathers were wont to paſſe over the Seas to chaſtiſe their inſolent and daring enemies; might be effectually maintained; and that we might thereby become feared of thoſe enemies, that now thinke themſelves out of our danger.

Surely the reaſon why this *Husbandrie* is not uſed, is becauſe the profit thereof would not preſently ariſe to our ſelves; but every one ought to know that no man is born only for himſelf, and that Fathers are to provide for their Children; therefore if we would leave our Countrie to our Children, and have our Childrens Children injoy the ſame, let us then providently forecaſt, to provide ſuch materials for our Grand-children, that they may have wherewithall to encounter with their enemies abroad, rather then to ſuffer them to be forced to combate with them here at home; ſurely if any enemy of ours, had any kinde

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of Timber ſo tough and durable as our *Engliſh Oake*, they would not neglect ſo great a benefit: O then unleſſe we would have our Enemies to ſucceed us in our inheritances let us make uſe of the benefits and priviledges that our good God hath beſtowed upon us above other Nations.

*How to gather Wheate, Rye and Barley in late Harveſts, and Wet Seaſons.*

IN *Harveſt-time* when the Corne is full ripe and like to ſhed, and the ſeaſon ſo wet that it cannot be houſed ſo drie as it ſhould be, ought this point of *Husbandrie* to be practiſed, rather than that the *Corne* ſhould be ſpoyl'd or loſt; firſt therefore in ſuch ſeaſons may the *Husbandman* reape or cut downe his *Corne* according to the Country cuſtome wherein he lives, and then afterward whenſoever it holds up; or ſooner if there be cauſe; let his Harveſt people (having implements accordingly) apply themſelves to the cropping, clipping, or cutting off the Eares of the Corne by handfuls at a time, little Children may gather the Corne into handfuls, and give them to the *Harveſt-man*, who as he cuts them off, ſhould put them into Sackes, and then ſhould they be carried home, and ſpread upon floores in Lofts, and in all other places where they may lye and dry, and being dry then ſhould they be removed & other brought and ſhould be ſpread in their places, otherwiſe whenſoever the Weather holds a little faire, there may one be aſſigned to follow every Reaper that may clip off the eares as faſt as they ſhall reape it, into little flaskets, and ſo ſacke them up, and carry them home as faſt as it is reaped. Thus may men ſoone gather in their Wheat, their Rye, and their Barley, although there ſhould be much graſſe, and weeds among the ſtraw, that doth require much time to wither, and dry before it can be got in. Now when they have got in the eares of their Corne, they may let the ſtraw lye and dry a while without ſuſtaining any great hurt, and after they may gather it in and ſtack it up at leiſure, when the ſeaſon is more drie.

*FINIS.*